



The Minuteman



Volume 15 Number 2

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION

May 1987

NEXT MEETING

13 May, 1987--CAMPION CENTER WESTON
Doors open 7:00 PM
Meeting begins 7:30 PM

ADGENDA Treasurers report.
 Election of 87/88
 officers & directors.
 Guest speaker--Paul Young,
 KQ1F. His talk will be on
 his expedition to the
 Galapagos Islands off the
 coast of Equador.

LOOKING BACK

With the arrival of the 13 May membership meeting, we will have reached the end of another MMRA year. As usual it is at this time that you look back to see what took place in the past year.

The first major occurrence was the antenna tower at Weston falling, destroying both the antenna and tower (they don't come much more major than that). Fortunately no one was injured and no property was damaged (other than the antenna & tower). Also, fortunately a new antenna was on hand scheduled to be installed during the summer. Al Kunian's article "WESTON ANTENNA PARTY" in the Sept 86 NEWSLETTER provided the details of the task in getting the structure replaced and keeping 22/82 on the air.

Soon after that disaster, 07/67 at Quincy had a lightning bolt come in on the AC power line. It took out

power supply and in the process a number of ICs and other solid state devices, including microprocessors. A new Astron power supply was purchased and the back up repeater was installed. The MCS repeater was eventually returned to the manufacturer because of the multiplicity of problems the zapped, out-of-control power supply caused.

In the late summer a new Super Stationmaster antenna was installed at 01/61 in Marlborough, improving its coverage considerably. The old one showing the effects of age as the radome had disintegrated allowing moisture to penetrate the fiberglass cover into the antenna. The same was true of the antenna on the toppled Weston tower.

In the past month new receivers have been received for both the Marlboro (01/61) and Weston (22/82) repeaters. The Marlboro (01/61) receiver has been installed and has resulted in a significant increase in the received signal capabilities (tests indicate something in the order of 10 dB). This will make a sizeable increase in the DFQ coverage area. Andy Morrison (N1BHI), trustee of 01/61, wishes to thank all who helped in building, installing, and testing the new receiver. The Marlboro 440 and Weston 22/82 will be next in line to have their new receivers built and installed. The 440 receiver and exciter have been ordered but not yet received.

As of 2 May 1987, the repaired MCS repeater was installed at 07/67 at Quincy, together with a new MIRAGE model B3016R final amplifier. Thus the

full capabilities of 07/67 have been reestablished. We have Tom Holmes (WA1ZID) and crew to thank for this effort. You can look for improved coverage on 07/67.

Finely, we have at last found an insurance company that would issue us a bodily injury and property damage liability policy. After the old policy expired the former agency couldn't find any one of the companies it represented that would reinsure us. As was indicated we did eventually locate an agency who did represent a company that would take us on. The cost of liability insurance, over the past few years, has skyrocketed. Thus we had to pay considerably more than in the past, however under todays market conditions we were lucky to obtain a new policy at all.

HERE AND THERE

BY the time you read this you will have received notice of the auto-patch code changes. Code changes haven't been made for some time and it is necessary to change them in order to maintain their confidentiality for the membership. Instructions for the proper use of the auto-patch were published in the March NEWSLETTER.

You will note in the list of officers that the nominating committee came up with for the 87/88 year that I (K1IAO) am listed as running for president again. This in spite of all that I said about not doing it. However no one else could be located to take on the job so I agreed to sit in for one more year. I will work very hard to make this a lame duck term as I feel you need new ideas, new faces, and new ways of doing things to keep the association from getting stagnated.

To refresh your memory here is the list of 87/88 officers to be voted upon at the May 13 meeting:

President	
Hazen Saltmarsh	K1IAO
Vice President	
Matthew Valteau	KA9CRG
Secretary	
Frank Morrison	KB1FZ
Treasurer	
Robert Fraser	K1PBL
Clerk	
Barri Brozenske	K3BUZ

What this organization needs is a team of publisher & editor to put out a top notch NEWSLETTER every 2 months (5 times a year). Ideally the editor should have a computer and a piece of software, ie THE NEWSROOM, PRINT SHOP, etc. (you can see I'm a Commodore user) or at least a word processor. The publisher can drum up articles and news, get the paper to the printer, and see to its distribution. If any one is interested or knows someone who might be a bit hesitant about stepping forward, please pass the word. I can't do a good job on the NEWSLETTER and still do justice to the other club business.

Anyone who has any news of interest to MMRA members in general or would like to write an article send it along to the NEWSLETTER editor, via the MMRA Lexington address, and it will be given consideration.

Just a note in closing as the question is always being asked, the current MMRA membership stands at 403 (as of 5/3/87).

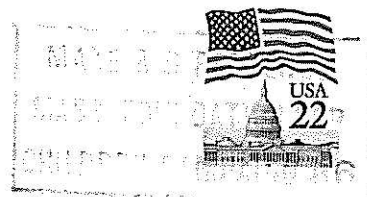
73

de K1IAO



MMRA

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